

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/481,477

Examiner

Naresh Vig

Applicant(s)

GELFER, GEORGE G.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06 February 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 9-20, 22-40 and 42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

The drawings have been approved by the examiner.

### ***REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is directed to method and arrangement for automatically ordering supplies for an apparatus in which the supplies are consumed during usage of the apparatus, wherein the apparatus monitors the usage of the consumable supplies and upon receiving a predetermined threshold places an order for the consumable supplies before the actual time of replacement or replenishment occurs by transmitting an ordering message to a remote data center. Ordering information includes identification of supply item and identification information of the apparatus ordering the supplies. After identifying the apparatus on the basis of the identification information (serial number of the device), said order is filled only if said requested supply item conforms to said at least one permissible supply item, and otherwise not filling said order; When the order is filled, remote data center transmits a confirmation message to the apparatus.

**Regarding Independent Claim 1**

**Prior art Sato (Japan Patent JP 02032665 A) teaches:**

electronically monitoring, in a device, a consumption quantity associated with consumption of a supply item during operation of said device and repeatedly electronically comparing said consumption quantity to a threshold representing consumption of said supply item before complete depletion of said supply item;

upon said consumption quantity reaching said threshold, automatically electronically generating an ordering message at said device representing an order for a requested supply item, and including an identification code in said ordering message, and only thereafter establishing a communication between said device and a data center and communicating said ordering message from said device to said data center;

at said data center, electronically identifying, based on said identification code, an entity which has placed said ordering message;

at said data center, electronically compiling a data bank containing respective identification codes for a plurality of different ordering entities, each ordering entity having at least one permissible supply item associated therewith;

upon receipt of said ordering message at said data center, conducting an ordering routine including searching said data bank to find the ordering entity associated with the identification code in the ordering message

**Prior art Sato (Japan Patent JP 02032665 A) does not teach:**

upon receipt of said ordering message at said data center, electronically conducting an ordering routine at said data center including searching said data bank to find the ordering entity associated with the identification code in the ordering message and filling said order only if said requested supply item conforms to said at least one permissible supply item, and otherwise not filling said order; and

generating a confirmation message at said data center when said order is filled, and transmitting said confirmation message from said data center to said device.

**Prior art Barnes et al. (US Patent 5,970,475) teaches:**

electronically conducting an ordering routine including searching data bank to find the ordering entity associated with the identification code in the ordering message and filling said order only if said requested supply item conforms to said at least one permissible supply item, and otherwise not filling said order.

**Prior art Barnes et al. (US Patent 5,970,475) does not teach:**

generating a confirmation message at said data center when said order is filled, and transmitting said confirmation message from said data center to said device.

**Prior art Canon Multipass C5500 teaches:**

Apparatus monitoring consumption quantity associated with consumption of a supply item during operation of said device and repeatedly electronically comparing said

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consumption quantity to a threshold representing consumption of said supply item before complete depletion of said supply item, and, upon reaching a predetermined threshold generating a message for the operator.

**Prior art Canon Multipass C5500 does not teach:**

generating a confirmation message at said data center when said order is filled, and transmitting said confirmation message from said data center to said device.

**Prior art Frogger et al. US Patent (6,351,716) teaches:**

comparing consumption quantity to a threshold in the container of a consumable supply item.

**Prior art Frogger et al. US Patent (6,351,716) does not teach:**

generating a confirmation message at said data center when said order is filled, and transmitting said confirmation message from said data center to said device.

**Regarding Independent Claim 27**

**Prior art Sato (Japan Patent JP 02032665 A) teaches:**

a device which, during operation, consumes at least one supply item;

a monitor in said device for monitoring consumption of said supply item in said device and for generating a quantity representing a consumption degree of consumption of said supply item;

a control unit supplied with said consumption quantity which recognizes, dependent on said consumption quantity, a need to order said supply item before said supply item is completely consumed, and which generates an ordering message representing an order for said supply item and establishes a communication to a remote data center for transmitting said ordering message to order said supply item from said data center;

**Prior art Sato (Japan Patent JP 02032665 A) does not teach:**

said control unit being adapted to receive a message from said remote data center indicating at said remote data center a check of authenticity of said ordering message has determined that said ordering message is not authentic and said control unit modifying operation of said device if upon receipt of said message from said remote data center.

**Prior art Barnes et al. (US Patent 5,970,475) teaches:**

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said control unit being adapted to receive a message from said remote data center indicating at said remote data center a check of authenticity of said ordering message has determined that said ordering message is not authentic and said control unit modifying operation of said device if upon receipt of said message from said remote data center.

**Prior art Barnes et al. (US Patent 5,970,475) does not teach:**

said control unit upon determination that said ordering message is not authentic, modifying operation of said device if upon receipt of said message from said remote data center.

**Prior art Canon Multipass C5500 teaches:**

Apparatus monitoring consumption quantity associated with consumption of a supply item during operation of said device and repeatedly electronically comparing said consumption quantity to a threshold representing consumption of said supply item before complete depletion of said supply item, and, upon reaching a predetermined threshold generating a message for the operator.

**Prior art Canon Multipass C5500 does not teach:**

said control unit upon determination that said ordering message is not authentic, modifying operation of said device if upon receipt of said message from said remote data center.

**Prior art Frogger et al. US Patent (6,351,716) teaches:**

said device comparing consumption quantity to a threshold in the container of a consumable supply item.

**Prior art Frogger et al. US Patent (6,351,716) does not teach:**

said control unit upon determination that said ordering message is not authentic, modifying operation of said device if upon receipt of said message from said remote data center.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

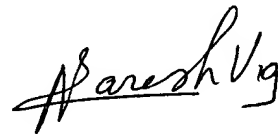
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naresh Vig", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Naresh Vig  
Examiner  
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March 1, 2007